



USAID | BOLIVIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID SUPPORT: BENI

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a comprehensive assistance program that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



Responding to a request by the Government of Bolivia, the U.S. Government provided humanitarian aid to Beni, helping to mitigate the impact of flooding in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and protect the health and welfare of Bolivian families.

*USAID/Bolivia:
working together*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has provided support to several development activities in Beni. Projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity; improve access to health care for the poor; promote environmental protection and conservation; and provide disaster response. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations, promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

The people from the Department of Beni have different levels of poverty and development needs. USAID supported financial institutions to improve financial services for the people, while facilitating the sending and receipt of remittances at competitive rates. The introduction of expanded financial services has included inaugurations of new financial institutions branches in various towns since 2008.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

USAID seeks to improve the health of underserved Bolivians by increasing access to quality health services through the strengthening of public and NGO health facilities and networks. The program supports the Ministry of Health's policy of extending services to rural areas, with a special focus on family and community health.

In Beni, the program supported training, technical assistance and provision of equipment to enhance the quality of health services related to maternal and child health and for the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases, including HIV; as well as to build the capacity of regional and municipal health authorities to manage the health system. In addition, in selected municipalities the program supported a network of health volunteers who focus on health education and promotion activities, and facilitate community efforts to identify and solve local health problems. In coordination with local governments, USAID also has a program in Beni aimed at increasing access to quality reproductive health services for adolescents through youth-defined and youth-led initiatives that promote responsible behavior.

With the assistance of USAID, two Bolivian NGOs, PROSALUD and CIES, are directly providing a range of health services to the people of Beni. USAID has also developed a Municipal Matching Fund to help local governments make investments that will improve the health status of their constituents.



Two young USAID beneficiaries during the 2008 floods

ENVIRONMENT

Through its support to local and indigenous organizations, USAID promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiverse Amboró-Madidi Corridor, which contains nine protected areas, nine indigenous groups and covers over 12% of the national territory. The program helps local communities to develop economic initiatives such as ecotourism that provide an opportunity for sustainable incomes, improve environmental and land use planning, and raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through formal and non-formal education.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since 2006, the U.S. Government provided more than US \$3 million in humanitarian aid aimed at mitigating the effects of flooding in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz. Temporary camps were put in place in Trinidad and Santa Ana, along with corresponding health centers designed to protect the health of people living in the affected areas.

COMMUNITY FUND

Through a Community Development Activity Fund, USAID supports rural communities with immediate people-level impact small development activities.

This initiative implements small self-help projects responding to the needs of low-income communities in urban and rural areas. The projects have a people-to-people approach and include substantial input from local communities. In Beni, USAID has provided a small grant to the Chimán Indigenous Community to allow them the improvement of their river transportation.